

**IDENTIFICATION:** The Flattened Musk turtle (*Sternotherus depressus*) is a small freshwater turtle less than 5 inches in total length with a flattened top shell. The top shell is brown and the bottom either pink or yellow. The head is greenish with a network of dark markings. The flattened musk turtle feeds on invertebrates such as snails and mussels in undammed small to medium sized clear shallow streams. It can also be found upstream and downstream of impoundments.



**FORESTRY CONSIDERATIONS:** These animals are sensitive to changes in streambed and water quality, especially siltation. Following Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry will protect them from the impact of forestry activities.

**DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY:** Currently found only in the Black Warrior watershed above the Bankhead Dam. The ten Alabama counties included in its range are Blount, Cullman, Etowah, Jefferson, Marshall, Tuscaloosa, Walker and Winston.

Photo and Text Credit: Threatened and Endangered Species of Alabama: A Guide to Assist with Forestry Activities, Second Edition, USFS



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